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COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION

SUPPORT BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM OF THE EFFORTS OF GOVERNMENTS TO PROMOTE AND CONSOLIDATE NEW OR RESTORED DEMOCRACIES

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOME OF THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

Letter dated 6 October 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the pleasure to enclose herewith the text of the five main resolutions adopted at the ninety-eighth session of the General Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, held at Cairo from 11 to 16 September 1997, under the chairmanship of His Excellency Dr. Ahmed Fathi Sorour, Speaker of the Egyptian Parliament and Chairman of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

I shall appreciate distribution of the text of these resolutions as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda items 29, 38, 46, 108 and 112.

(Signed) Nabil ELARABY
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX I

[Original: English and French]

ENSURING LASTING DEMOCRACY BY FORGING CLOSE LINKS BETWEEN PARLIAMENT AND THE PEOPLE

Resolution adopted without a vote by the 98th Inter-Parliamentary Conference (Cairo, 15 September 1997)

The 98th Inter-Parliamentary Conference,

Convinced that the dignity of the individual is inviolable,

Believing that respect for human rights is not only a fundamental value, but also a crucial element in the development of stable, democratic and prosperous societies at peace with each other, and *convinced* that the rights of women and children are inherent in human rights,

Convinced that respect for human rights is a prerequisite for peace within individual States, as well as for peaceful good-neighbourly relations between States,

Also convinced that a parliament elected freely and fairly is the best guarantee of human dignity and the prosperity of citizens,

Appreciating that democracy offers the best framework for citizens to develop their creativity and potential and contribute to the establishment, development and preservation of their society,

Convinced that access to education and information is vital to citizens' participation in society,

Stressing that the principles of democracy may be applied differently, according to the culture, history and constitution of each nation,

Observing nonetheless that democracy presupposes that:

- The people have the power to decide programmes and policies directly or through representatives chosen in free and fair elections;
- Those in power are effectively given the means to manage the country;
- Those in power are accountable to the people,

Believing that good governance ensures the effective, honest, equitable, accessible, accountable and transparent exercise of power by governments,

Convinced that a representative democracy can only endure if citizens trust constitutional processes and institutions and if legislators earn their respect,

Reasserting that parliament is the true and legitimate representative of the people, and *emphasising* the need therefore to strengthen links between this institution, its members and the people,

Aware that parliament has an obligation to provide citizens with information about its work,

Convinced that elected parliamentarians have a duty to be fully informed of citizens' circumstances and problems through constant communication with their constituents,

Acknowledging that the media have an important role to play in facilitating communication between parliament and citizens,

Further acknowledging the important role which various groups and institutions play in a democracy by articulating diverse sociocultural, political and economic issues,

Aware that in every society, peaceful conditions in which candidates, representatives and the people are not subject to violence or intimidation are essential for the smooth functioning of the democratic process,

Welcoming the role played by the Inter-Parliamentary Union in strengthening the ties of friendship between parliaments and parliamentarians and, through them, between peoples, and *conscious* of the need for confidence in political processes, parties, parliaments and parliamentarians,

1. *Calls on* all States to safeguard free and fair elections without any discrimination, in conformity with the Declaration on Criteria for Free and Fair Elections adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Council in Paris in March 1994;

2. *Urges* States to condemn and take action against all acts of violence against the people's representatives, candidates and the people themselves;

3. *Further urges* States to safeguard the role of parliaments and political institutions so as to enable parliamentarians to play their role properly and freely, *inter alia* by adopting legislation, overseeing the government and debating major societal issues;

4. *Calls on* States to ensure citizens' unrestricted and permanent access to education and information and, in this regard, *recognises* the value of new technologies for parliamentary work;

5. *Also calls on* States to recognise and accommodate diversity as a guarantee of democracy in a pluralist society;

6. *Further calls on* States to strengthen representative parliamentary democracy with constitutional instruments, including petitions and referenda, parliamentary recall and the right to initiate legislation, wherever these may be appropriate and feasible in the light of the constitutional system and established political culture;

7. *Appeals* to parliaments and governments to ensure that citizens are aware of their democratic rights and responsibilities regarding their participation in the democratic process and to see to it that legislation is drafted in clear and simple language which is comprehensible to citizens;

8. *Emphasises* the need to foster direct contacts between parliamentarians and citizens through meetings and discussions at all levels, nationally and internationally;

9. *Calls on* parliaments to ensure, through an open and accessible public information policy, accurate and comprehensive reporting of the work of parliamentarians in the media;

10. *Also emphasises* the need to ensure unrestricted, objective, ethical and unbiased reporting by the media on the work of parliament and parliamentarians;

11. *Encourages* National Groups to consider each of the cases in the report of the IPU Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians and to take appropriate follow-up action in their favour.

ANNEX II

[Original: English and French]

EMPLOYMENT IN A GLOBALISING WORLD

Resolution adopted without a vote* by the 98th Inter-Parliamentary Conference (Cairo, 15 September 1997)

The 98th Inter-Parliamentary Conference,

Considering that the globalising world will bring benefits only if it arises from collective thought and joint action as well as an exchange of ideas and opinions reflecting the whole spectrum of the interests and levels of socio-economic development of all peoples,

Underscoring the growing move towards economic globalisation, primarily characterised by the liberalisation of international trade, increased flows of foreign direct investment, globalisation of money markets, as well as the confirmation of the role of international financial institutions in States' financial, monetary and trade policies,

Employment

Considering that this globalisation comes in a world economic context characterised by rising unemployment in most industrialised countries, massive unemployment in many former planned economies, as well as a deterioration of workers' living conditions in a number of countries, particularly developing ones,

Deeming that the present globalisation process may promote production and employment worldwide and that increased international trade and investment flows may lead to expanded markets and a better distribution of world economic resources, thus serving the interests of all States in varying degrees,

Mindful of the challenges posed by economic globalisation that weighs heavily on job markets in the industrialised countries, which fear losing jobs to developing countries with growing export sectors,

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* The Belgian delegation expressed reservations to operative paragraphs 9 and 12 of the resolution.

Emphasising in particular the potential negative effects of globalisation on employment in the developing countries and those in transition, which are obliged to adapt to the new world economic context characterised by intense regional and international competition at a time when most of these countries are suffering from problems posed by internal and external financial deficits, debt servicing, unemployment aggravated by population growth and the spread of poverty, in addition to the rising social costs often tied to economic globalisation and the switch to a market economy,

Aware that tackling only the economic aspects of problems stemming from the structural reforms implemented by the developing countries gives rise to certain social and political complications,

Recognising the need to alleviate problems faced by the workers of countries in situations of war or embargo,

Underscoring the principles and criteria established within the framework of the International Labour Organization and other UN specialised agencies and bodies concerning respect for fundamental labour rights,

Migrant workers

Aware that economic requirements, civil unrest, natural disasters and various forms of persecution have often forced workers to seek employment wherever they can best ensure their own survival and that of their families,

Also aware that as firms seek to survive and prosper in global markets and as technology changes the ways in which goods and services are produced, there is an increasing likelihood that firms will change traditional employment practices and restructure the nature of the employer-employee relationship,

Noting with concern that there are some 42 million migrant workers, more than at any other period in history,

Concerned about the precarious legal situation of workers in some countries and about unscrupulous labour practices used against migrant workers,

Also concerned that many migrant workers are subject to maltreatment and human rights abuses in some countries and that the most vulnerable workers, those with low skills and those sought for work in low-paying sectors are among the most susceptible to abuse,

Welcoming the efforts by a network of grassroots groups, a number of non-governmental organisations and many farm labourer organisations to improve the conditions faced by migrant workers,

Emphasising that sending countries have an obligation to protect and promote the interests of their citizens who are seeking work or already working in other countries, to give them appropriate training and education and to apprise them of their rights and of the obligations of the receiving countries,

Recalling the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and the Members of Their Families, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in resolution 45/158 of 18 December 1990, the Vienna Declaration and Plan of Action adopted on 25 June 1993 by the World Conference on Human Rights, which call on all States to guarantee the safeguarding of the human rights of all migrant workers, as well as the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Summit for Social Development in March 1995,

Child labour

Aware that the issue of exploitative forms of child labour has become a priority for many governments,

Recognising that exploitative child labour is closely linked to poverty and that countries with the highest illiteracy rates, lowest school enrolment rates and serious nutritional deficiencies are in general those that have the highest proportion of children working in exploitative situations,

Also recognising that child labour is both a human rights and a development issue,

Acknowledging that child labour requires a response from a broad alliance of national and international organisations, both public and private,

Taking into consideration the efforts made by the international community and national governments to tackle the child labour problem through the Plans of Action adopted by the World Summit for Children in 1990 and the Conference on Education for All held in Jomtien in 1991, as well as through the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the World Summit for Social Development in 1995,

Recalling that the Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted in 1989 and ratified by 191 States, recognises the child's right to be protected from "economic exploitation and from performing any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health or physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development" (article 32),

The 98th Inter-Parliamentary Conference:

1. *Recommends* that, in the global economy, a strict balance be observed between the interests of the major economic powers and the rights of other States, thus ensuring equity for all and guaranteeing stability;

2. *Reaffirms* the goal of providing opportunities for fairly remunerated and freely chosen work for all those seeking it;

3. *Urges* that, in setting labour standards, account be taken of the economic and social situation of developing countries, to enable them to participate actively in international trade and enjoy free access to markets;

4. *Also urges* that the same rules of international law be observed by and applied to all countries without distinction;

5. *Strongly recommends* that multilateral aid and financing agencies adopt effective approaches and devise mechanisms for assisting developing countries through special programmes aimed at their recovery and genuine development, thus enabling them to improve their basic infrastructure and agricultural and industrial production both quantitatively and qualitatively;

6. *Calls on* the developed countries and international organisations to support local capacity-building in developing countries in order to improve the quality of their human resources and increase employment opportunities;

7. *Urges* the developed countries to encourage their private sectors to invest capital in the developing countries in order to create more employment opportunities, and *calls on* the governments of developing countries to pursue policies conducive to foreign direct investment;

8. *Recommends* that measures be taken at the international level to reinforce inter-State economic relations and openness in the context of economic globalisation and to lessen inequalities and poverty worldwide;

Employment

9. *Calls on* States to develop a wide range of labour market adjustment measures designed primarily to address the dislocation effects of structural economic change, including those arising from international trade;

10. *Also calls on* States to undertake active measures such as job assistance, skill acquisition and mobility incentives, wage subsidies, earnings supplements and other employment incentive schemes as well as passive measures such as early retirement incentives, unemployment or social assistance and unemployment insurance;

11. *Stresses* that all countries must be expected and allowed to accept responsibility for their own development, and that lending institutions must avoid conditions which would erode vital services such as education and health or reduce employment, since this will allow the economic and social context of each country to be fully reflected in its development strategy, thus safeguarding the political and social sustainability of recovery programmes;

12. *Recognises* that the pace of trade liberalisation must be adapted to national conditions so as to allow time for industrial development and minimise social costs;

13. *Urges* parliaments and governments to refrain from using labour standards for purposes other than the protection of workers, and to oppose attempts to impair the comparative advantage of the developing countries resulting from lower wages;

14. *Recommends* giving priority to programmes encouraging small and medium businesses and to enhancing the productivity of the informal sector by improving infrastructure, increasing the availability of credit including micro-credit, minimising interest rates, expanding education and training, ensuring equitable redistribution of resources and improving advisory services and the supply of information; and *stresses* that such programmes must focus on the elimination of poverty and unemployment;

15. *Urges* parliaments and governments to eliminate any form of discrimination in employment including on grounds of sex, age, family responsibilities, civil status, social and ethnic origin, and religion, so as to guarantee equal opportunities in access to jobs and ensure full recognition for the handicapped and the exercise of their rights and guarantees so that they may enjoy real equality in terms of employment and treatment;

Migrant workers

16. *Calls on* States to affirm that migrant workers are entitled to the protection of their human rights, regardless of their legal status;

17. *Also calls on* States to undertake educational and other programmes to ensure that migrant workers are aware of their rights within the host country and to promote their integration in the host society;

18. *Urges* States to work in co-operation to eliminate maltreatment of migrant workers and abuses of their human rights;

19. *Calls on* the United Nations General Assembly to reopen negotiations to clarify the protection of all migrant workers in the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families;

Child labour

20. *Calls on* States to recognise the right of all children, both boys and girls, to relevant basic education, to protection from any work that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with education, in order to respect their development and improve their adult employment opportunities, thus enhancing their own and their countries' economic future;

21. *Also calls on* States to reduce child labour through multi-faceted development strategies, through compulsory primary education for boys and girls, including substantial investment in such education; enhanced participation of women in economic development; generation of alternative sources or income through private sector development, and greater involvement of civil society and local government; in order to offer viable economic alternatives to poor families which depend on the contribution of child labour for their very survival;

22. *Recommends* that legislation banning any form of child abduction or exploitation and the use of child labour in hazardous work, and in particular protecting children against sexual exploitation, forced labour, bonded labour and other forms of slavery involving children, be adopted as rapidly as possible and effectively applied by at least the countries represented in the Inter-Parliamentary Union;

23. *Calls on* States to provide wider legislative protection, including national child labour laws which comply with the spirit and letter of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (Article 7) and of relevant ILO conventions, in particular to ensure that all children are registered at birth and to provide employers and labour inspectors with evidence of every child's age.

ANNEX III

[Original: English and French]

THE NEED TO ELIMINATE ALL COMMERCIAL AND OTHER FORMS OF SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN AND FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF UNIFORM LAWS TO PROHIBIT THIS INDEFENSIBLE VIOLATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

Resolution adopted without a vote by the 98th Inter-Parliamentary Conference (Cairo, 15 September 1997)

The 98th Inter-Parliamentary Conference,

Deeply concerned that many children throughout the world continue to suffer abuses of their human rights as a result of exploitative child labour, child trafficking, sexual exploitation and poverty,

Recognising that the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaims that childhood is entitled to special care and assistance,

Noting that the 1990 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, with 191 ratifications, is the most widely ratified international human rights instrument,

Recalling the 1959 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the Child and the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and Plan of Action for Implementing this Declaration in the 1990s, as well as other relevant UN decisions, including the resolution on the rights of the child adopted by the Commission on Human Rights in April 1997,

Welcoming the adoption by the 1996 Stockholm World Congress of a Declaration and Agenda for Action against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children,

Also welcoming the contribution of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe to UN action and particularly its Recommendation no. 1336/1997 inviting European States to ensure compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and outlining a European policy for the implementation of this Convention,

Further welcoming the work under way within the UN to draft an optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child with the aim of strengthening mechanisms to help combat child prostitution, child pornography and other forms of commercial sexual exploitation of children as a matter of urgency,

1. *Urges* those countries which have not yet ratified the 1990 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child to do so as a matter of priority;

2. *Also urges* those countries which have ratified the Convention to implement fully their obligations under it and to withdraw any reservations pertaining thereto;

3. *Encourages* countries to co-operate with, and assist the operations of, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, other UN bodies or agencies, as well as non-governmental organisations, which have specific responsibilities for the protection of children's rights;

4. *Calls on* its members to ensure that the goals and targets of the World Declaration and Plan of Action on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children, adopted at the 1990 World Summit for Children, are met within the agreed ten-year time frame;

5. *Urges* all UN Member States to expedite work under way within the United Nations to draft an optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

6. *Urges* all countries to develop national action plans and strengthen intersectoral co-ordination in order to fully implement the Declaration and Agenda for Action adopted by the World Congress on the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children;

7. *Recommends* that all countries allocate sufficient funds for prevention and education campaigns aimed at combating child prostitution and sexual abuse;

8. *Urges* all countries to introduce or strengthen legislation to protect children and to prohibit the commercial sexual exploitation of children, which targets in particular the service providers, customers or intermediaries in child prostitution, child trafficking and child pornography, as well as the distribution of child pornography via electronic means such as the Internet;

9. *Strongly recommends* that all countries establish or strengthen networks for co-operation between national and international law enforcement authorities, in order to counter the increasingly transnational nature of commercial sexual exploitation of children.

ANNEX IV

[Original: English and French]

UNIVERSAL DECLARATION ON DEMOCRACY

Declaration adopted without a vote* by the Inter-Parliamentary Council at its 161st session (Cairo, 16 September 1997)

The Inter-Parliamentary Council,

Reaffirming the Inter-Parliamentary Union's commitment to peace and development and *convinced* that the strengthening of the democratisation process and representative institutions will greatly contribute to attaining this goal,

Reaffirming also the calling and commitment of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to promoting democracy and the establishment of pluralistic systems of representative government in the world, and *wishing* to strengthen its sustained and multiform action in this field,

Recalling that each State has the sovereign right, freely to choose and develop, in accordance with the will of its people, its own political, social, economic and cultural systems without interference by other States in strict conformity with the United Nations Charter,

Recalling also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted on 10 December 1948, as well as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights adopted on 16 December 1966, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination adopted on 21 December 1965 and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women adopted on 18 December 1979,

Recalling further the *Declaration on Criteria for Free and Fair Elections* which it adopted in March 1994 and in which it confirmed that in any State the authority of the government can derive only from the will of the people as expressed in genuine, free and fair elections,

Referring to the *Agenda for Democratisation* presented on 20 December 1996 by the UN Secretary-General to the 51st session of the United Nations General Assembly,

Adopts the following **Universal Declaration on Democracy** and *urges* Governments and Parliaments throughout the world to be guided by its content:

FIRST PART - THE PRINCIPLES OF DEMOCRACY

1. Democracy is a universally recognised ideal as well as a goal, which is based on common values shared by peoples throughout the world community irrespective of cultural, political, social and economic differences. It is thus a basic right of citizenship to be exercised under conditions of freedom, equality, transparency and responsibility, with due respect for the plurality of views, and in the interest of the polity.

2. Democracy is both an ideal to be pursued and a mode of government to be applied according to modalities which reflect the diversity of experiences and cultural particularities without derogating from internationally recognised principles, norms and standards. It is thus a constantly perfected and always perfectible state or condition whose progress will depend upon a variety of political, social, economic, and cultural factors.

3. As an ideal, democracy aims essentially to preserve and promote the dignity and fundamental rights of the individual, to achieve social justice, foster the economic and social development of the community, strengthen the cohesion of society and enhance national tranquillity, as well as to create a climate that is favourable for international peace. As a form of government, democracy is the best way of achieving these objectives; it is also the only political system that has the capacity for self-correction.

4. The achievement of democracy presupposes a genuine partnership between men and women in the conduct of the affairs of society in which they work in equality and complementarity, drawing mutual enrichment from their differences.

5. A state of democracy ensures that the processes by which power is acceded to, wielded and alternates allow for free political competition and are the product of open, free and non-discriminatory participation by the people, exercised in accordance with the rule of law, in both letter and spirit.

6. Democracy is inseparable from the rights set forth in the international instruments recalled in the preamble. These rights must therefore be applied effectively and their proper exercise must be matched with individual and collective responsibilities.

7. Democracy is founded on the primacy of the law and the exercise of human rights. In a democratic State, no one is above the law and all are equal before the law.

8. Peace and economic, social and cultural development are both conditions for and fruits of democracy. There is thus interdependence between peace, development, respect for and observance of the rule of law and human rights.

SECOND PART - THE ELEMENTS AND EXERCISE OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT

9. Democracy is based on the existence of well-structured and well-functioning institutions, as well as on a body of standards and rules and on the will of society as a whole, fully conversant with its rights and responsibilities.

10. It is for democratic institutions to mediate tensions and maintain equilibrium between the competing claims of diversity and uniformity, individuality and collectivity, in order to enhance social cohesion and solidarity.

11. Democracy is founded on the right of everyone to take part in the management of public affairs; it therefore requires the existence of representative institutions at all levels and, in particular, a Parliament in which all components of society are represented and which has the requisite

powers and means to express the will of the people by legislating and overseeing government action.

12. The key element in the exercise of democracy is the holding of free and fair elections at regular intervals enabling the people's will to be expressed. These elections must be held on the basis of universal, equal and secret suffrage so that all voters can choose their representatives in conditions of equality, openness and transparency that stimulate political competition. To that end, civil and political rights are essential, and more particularly among them, the rights to vote and to be elected, the rights to freedom of expression and assembly, access to information and the right to organise political parties and carry out political activities. Party organisation, activities, finances, funding and ethics must be properly regulated in an impartial manner in order to ensure the integrity of the democratic processes.

13. It is an essential function of the State to ensure the enjoyment of civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights to its citizens. Democracy thus goes hand in hand with an effective, honest and transparent government, freely chosen and accountable for its management of public affairs.

14. Public accountability, which is essential to democracy, applies to all those who hold public authority, whether elected or non-elected, and to all bodies of public authority without exception. Accountability entails a public right of access to information about the activities of government, the right to petition government and to seek redress through impartial administrative and judicial mechanisms.

15. Public life as a whole must be stamped by a sense of ethics and by transparency, and appropriate norms and procedures must be established to uphold them.

16. Individual participation in democratic processes and public life at all levels must be regulated fairly and impartially and must avoid any discrimination, as well as the risk of intimidation by State and non-State actors.

17. Judicial institutions and independent, impartial and effective oversight mechanisms are the guarantors for the rule of law on which democracy is founded. In order for these institutions and mechanisms fully to ensure respect for the rules, improve the fairness of the processes and redress injustices, there must be access by all to administrative and judicial remedies on the basis of equality as well as respect for administrative and judicial decisions both by the organs of the State and representatives of public authority and by each member of society.

18. While the existence of an active civil society is an essential element of democracy, the capacity and willingness of individuals to participate in democratic processes and make governance choices cannot be taken for granted. It is therefore necessary to develop conditions conducive to the genuine exercise of participatory rights, while also eliminating obstacles that prevent, hinder or inhibit this exercise. It is therefore indispensable to ensure the permanent enhancement of, *inter alia*, equality, transparency and education and to remove obstacles such as ignorance, intolerance, apathy, the lack of genuine choices and alternatives and the absence of measures designed to redress imbalances or discrimination of a social, cultural, religious and racial nature, or for reasons of gender.

19. A sustained state of democracy thus requires a democratic climate and culture constantly nurtured and reinforced by education and other vehicles of culture and information. Hence, a democratic society must be committed to education in the broadest sense of the term, and more particularly civic education and the shaping of a responsible citizenry.

20. Democratic processes are fostered by a favourable economic environment; therefore, in its overall effort for development, society must be committed to satisfying the basic economic needs of the most disadvantaged, thus ensuring their full integration in the democratic process.

21. The state of democracy presupposes freedom of opinion and expression; this right implies freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

22. The institutions and processes of democracy must accommodate the participation of all people in homogeneous as well as heterogeneous societies in order to safeguard diversity, pluralism and the right to be different in a climate of tolerance.

23. Democratic institutions and processes must also foster decentralised local and regional government and administration, which is a right and a necessity, and which makes it possible to broaden the base of public participation.

THIRD PART - THE INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION OF DEMOCRACY

24. Democracy must also be recognised as an international principle, applicable to international organisations and to States in their international relations. The principle of international democracy does not only mean equal or fair representation of States; it also extends to the economic rights and duties of States.

25. The principles of democracy must be applied to the international management of issues of global interest and the common heritage of humankind, in particular the human environment.

26. To preserve international democracy, States must ensure that their conduct conforms to international law, refrain from the use or threat of force and from any conduct that endangers or violates the sovereignty and political or territorial integrity of other States, and take steps to resolve their differences by peaceful means.

27. A democracy should support democratic principles in international relations. In that respect, democracies must refrain from undemocratic conduct, express solidarity with democratic governments and non-State actors like non-governmental organisations which work for democracy and human rights, and extend solidarity to those who are victims of human rights violations at the hands of undemocratic régimes. In order to strengthen international criminal justice, democracies must reject impunity for international crimes and serious violations of fundamental human rights and support the establishment of a permanent international criminal court.

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* After the Declaration was adopted, the delegation of China expressed reservations to the text.

At present, 137 national parliaments are members of the Inter-Parliamentary Union. Representatives from the parliaments of the following 128 countries took part in the work of the Cairo Conference: Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, San Marino, Senegal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

ANNEX V

[Original: English and French]

50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Resolution adopted without a vote* by the Inter-Parliamentary Council at its 161st session (Cairo, 16 September 1997)

Recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 December 1948,

Stressing that the Declaration sets forth « *a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance* »,

Welcoming the fact that over the years the Declaration has provided both inspiration and substance for the development of a corpus of human rights principles and standards, as enshrined particularly in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and in regional human rights instruments and national legislation,

Recalling that the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted by consensus in 1993 by the World Conference on Human Rights, reaffirmed the international community's commitment to these human rights principles and standards and their universal and indivisible character,

Noting with deep concern that the goals set half a century ago are nonetheless still distant since human rights standards are not fully and universally respected and human rights and fundamental freedoms continue to be violated in all parts of the world,

Aware of the particular duty of Parliaments and their members, as guardians of human rights, to defend and promote human rights and so contribute to the building of a world in which human beings enjoy the entire spectrum of civil, cultural, economic, social and political rights,

Recalling the many resolutions adopted in recent years by the Inter-Parliamentary Union on issues of human rights, recommending specific action by governments and parliaments to uphold and promote human rights in various areas, including in particular :

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* After the Resolution was adopted, the delegations of Indonesia and Singapore expressed reservations to the text.

- « *Strengthening national structures, institutions and organisations of society which play a role in promoting and safeguarding human rights* » (Copenhagen, 17 September 1994);

- « *The protection of minorities as a global issue and a prerequisite for stability, security and peace* » (Istanbul, 19 April 1996);

- « *Promoting greater respect and protection of human rights in general and in particular for women and children* » (Beijing, 20 September 1996);

Considering that the United Nations, in General Assembly resolution 51/88, invited States « *to review and assess the progress that has been made in the field of human rights since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to identify obstacles and ways in which they can be overcome to achieve progress in this area, to undertake additional efforts and to develop programmes of education and information, with a view to disseminating the text of the Declaration and arriving at a better understanding of the universal message* »,

1. *Firmly believes* that all States have a duty to seek, in co-operation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and *reaffirms* that human rights are a matter of legitimate international concern since respect for them constitutes a pillar of international order;

2. *Reaffirms* the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and *recommends* that the parliamentary community mark its fiftieth anniversary in 1998 with a series of activities in support of the defence and promotion of human rights;

3. *Calls on* all Parliaments and their members to take action at the national level to ensure:

(i) That international and regional human rights treaties are ratified or acceded to promptly by their countries, in case they have not already done so, and that reservations are withdrawn whenever they conflict with the object and purpose of the treaty;

(ii) That enabling legislation is enacted and that the provisions of national laws and regulations are harmonised with the norms and standards contained in these instruments with a view to their full implementation;

(iii) That full co-operation and adequate information is offered to international and regional human rights bodies, including international criminal courts, and that individual complaints procedures provided for in international human rights treaties are accepted;

(iv) That independent national institutions for human rights, including the office of an Ombudsman or equivalent institution, together with parliamentary bodies overseeing human rights issues, are established or activated to operate in keeping with human rights norms;

(v) That non-governmental organisations working for the promotion and protection of human rights receive the necessary support and protection;

(vi) That the necessary budgetary provisions are made for action to promote and protect human rights, with special reference to human rights education;

4. *Invites* all Parliaments to hold a special sitting on or close to 10 December 1998, with the support from national parliamentary human rights bodies, to celebrate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to discuss the protection and promotion of human rights;

5. *Invites also* all Parliaments to encourage greater participation by the youth in national events to celebrate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

6. *Calls upon* Parliaments and their members to extend support and co-operation at the international level to the work of the United Nations and, in particular, the United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights, as well as to regional human rights bodies;

7. *Recommends* that the question of respect for human rights be addressed on the occasion of the 100th Inter-Parliamentary Conference in Moscow and, to that end, *urges* the members of the IPU to present reports on action they have taken to follow up this resolution, well in advance of that Conference;

8. *Decides* in favour of the IPU being represented, in a manner to be decided upon in due time, at the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which will take place during the UN General Assembly on 10 December 1998, and for an IPU contribution to be prepared for the celebrations in the form of information on parliamentary mechanisms to promote and protect human rights world-wide;

9. *Requests* the Secretary General to pursue discussions on activities to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with the United Nations and inter-parliamentary assemblies and organisations and to report to the Council at its 162nd session on further measures the Union may take.